Steel Plant Bowlers

Album 20
x.147

Photograph 1

Bowling Champs 1955

L-R
Russel Ball, Duke Gallant, Dave Menzies, Don Garnier,
Norman McPhee, Walter Pickles, Eddie Corbett,

Photograph 2

Photograph 3

Photograph 4

Photograph 5

Photograph 6

Photograph 7

Photograph 8

Photograph 9

Photograph 10

Photograph 11

Photograph 12

Photograph 13

Photograph 14

Photograph 15

Photograph 16

Photograph 17

Photograph 20

Photograph 19

Photograph 18

Steelworker's Lament

by

John "Slim" McInnis

I've worked on the Steel Plant all my life, since the time I was just a lad.
The hours were long, but my back was strong and I gave them all I had.
I've shovelled their snow at ten below from tracks piled high and white,
While the city dozed, I worked and froze there many a winter night.

I've shovelled their coal to a boiler old, and as hot as the gates of Hell,
Just useless trash, most stone and ash that coal mines couldn't sell.
I've loaded their rails and packed their nails, and bundled thier rod and bars,
And I've gasped and choked in the poison smoke, and the fumes of their hot coke cars.

I've swung a sledge on the crumbling edge of a furnace wide and tall,
With my vision blurred with the dust it stirred, and a man dared not to fall.
I've shoveled their ore from the stinking floor of ships from beyond the seas,
And my stomach turned when the gas was churned from shovelling manganese.

I've burned my feet in the hellish heat of a slag pit's firey glow,
And I've froze my ears at the scrapyard shears on a night that was ten below.
I've swabbed their sewers where a man endures a stench that's beyond compare,
In an air so foul that the rodents who prowl have all abandoned there.

Now my nerves have frayed and my hair has greyed, and slow are my work worn hands.
And my back is bent from the youth I've spent at Sydney Steel's demands.
For a man that toils in a steel mill spoils his chance for a ripe old age,
For the hazards to health are early felt, and he's old at middle age.

Now these are but a few of the jobs I do,
That briefly I've made mention.
And I feel it my heart that I've played my part,
And I've earned an early pension